



MedMap 2.5 has arrived!

Robert Shankman, GISP

Department of Health & Human Services

After many hours of work, dedication and coordination the day has finally arrived. The final roll out of the newest version of MedMap occurred just prior to the start of the 2014 hurricane season and has been a great success. Of course there were some hick-ups along the way but we are well on to providing the senior leadership and Health & Humans Services partners a tool that will be able to be integrated into the business process and provide useful and timely information for situational awareness and decision making. The increased processing power provided by the new hardware and the redesign of the application itself have made this application at least 4 times faster than it was before and able to handle many more concurrent users than the old system would allow. This new version includes many new data layers as well as streaming of data from sources such as the USGS, NOAA, NWS, FEMA and many more.



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Streaming data that is either procured or located on the internet and is allowed to be served out to all of the users is automatically loaded into MedMap. The role access to data is still applicable in this version for both tools and data. To see what streaming data you have access to use the “My Layers” tool within MedMap and scroll to the bottom of the list. You should be pleasantly surprised as to all of the data available. We have enabled a quicker method of getting information from these layers. All you need to do is (while using the pan tool) click on a feature. The system will start to determine how many features were in this area and will bring up a pop-up box with information for all of the features. You may need to scroll through the items with the arrows in the top right to get to the data you were interested in retrieving.

Other data that is in the application but is not in this list are the TrafficLand cameras from around the country and the national radar. To access the traffic data you will need to use the TrafficLand tool and select the TrafficLand Camera feed. For best performance you may want to zoom into the area of concern before turning this feed on as it loads all of the cameras in your view and

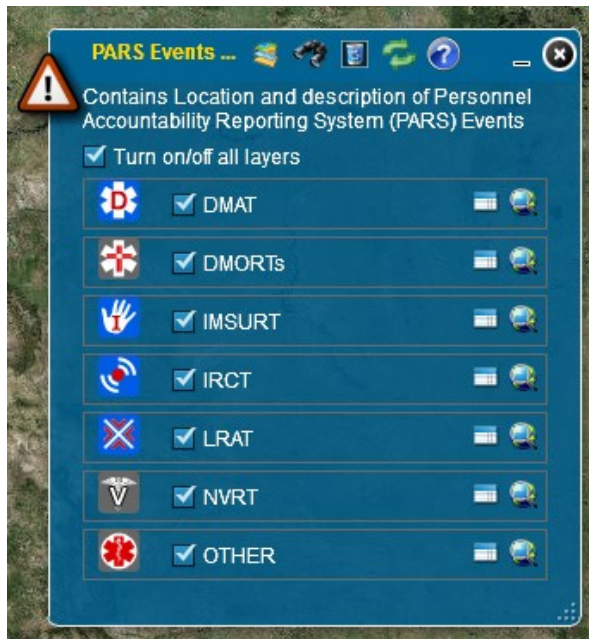
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NEW Features: Team Tracking & Incident and Facility Status Viewer

Jeff Marion

Department of Health & Human Services

I would like to introduce some new and exciting functionality in MedMap. We have launched multiple new tools that allow the MedMap user to dynamically display HHS Response data in near real-time. The first new tool is the Team Tracking tool. The Team tracking tool dynamically displays medical team location information from the Personnel Accountability Reporting System (PARS). Through this tool, the MedMap user can get a snapshot of the status of each team location, their mission, and how many personnel that are called to action. The information from PARS is pulled once every hour, so the MedMap community can see near real-time team deployments.



The second tool set is the Incident and Facility Status Markup tools. These two tools work together to give the MedMap user the ability to identify an incident area and then classify facilities that have been impacted by that event. This gives Response personnel the ability to display Impacted Facilities as information is gathered on-site of an event, which greatly reduces the time it takes to share this information as well as provide great situational awareness of the event. Only certain users will have access to the Markup tools, but all MedMap users can see the markups. The Markups are automatically displayed when first launching the MedMap application. If you have any specific questions about either of these tools, please check the new GIS Portal for FAQs or feel free to email MedMap@hhs.gov.

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could take some time to load all 15,000+ camera feeds if you are viewing the whole US.

If you want to view the streaming radar loop it is accessible from the “Earthquake/Radar/Other” tool in the tool bar and then select the “NEXRAD Reflectance” tool. This will load a one hour loop of the current radar. This automatically update throughout your session.

The User Guide is available from the “About” tool and access by clicking on the “NEW MedMap User Guide” link. This living PDF document has links throughout it make aid in your use. Feel free to download this document but be aware that we do update both this and the *Layer Dictionary* as needed and you may end up working off of an old copy.

Newest Member of the GIS/ MedMap Team: Philip Quach

Philip Quach

Department of Health & Human Services

Philip was born and raised in the DC, Maryland and Virginia (DMV) area. He graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a degree in GIS. He worked as a contractor in the DMV area before relocating to Twenty-nine Palms, CA as a FTE for the Marine Corps for 3.5 years. After moving back to MD, Philip previously worked at the Department of Homeland Security producing crisis maps in the National Operations Center for 2 years. He has been currently working as a GIS Analyst supporting the Secretary's Operations Center for 2 months now. With 8 years of experience in the GIS field, Philip is currently pursuing a GIS Masters at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a concentration in Web Based mapping. When not at work or school, Philip enjoys spending time watching sports, DIY projects, and spending time with

GIS Day 2015

Robert Shankman, GISP

Department of Health & Human Services

Once again The Department of Health & Human Services will be celebrating GIS Day here in DC. The actual celebration will be in the Tip O'Neill building for the second year in a row on November 19th. This year we are looking to showcase how GIS and YOU have changed the world we live in. Have you used GIS to help make decisions or used spatial data to help others? Have you been able to solve a question with the use of GIS and any other data? If

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Tips and Tricks: Using the GIS Portal

Robert Shankman, GISP

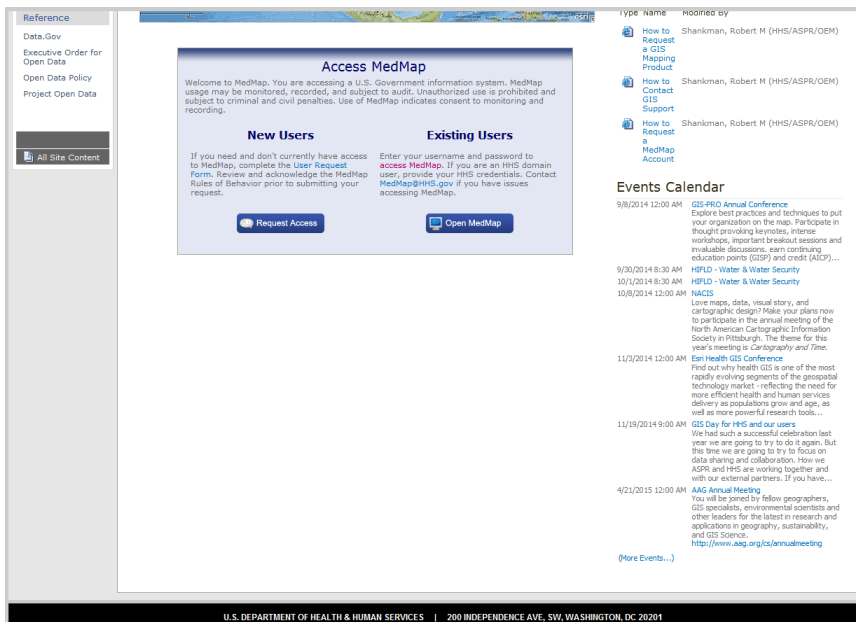
US Department of Health & Human Services

The GIS/MedMap portal is new for this year. We have tried to include all of the requests and information we could on this informative platform. From this portal you can do the following; link to offsite data sources and web pages, learn about MedMap and the GIS program at HHS, read quick news articles and notification related to the GIS and MedMap, submit questions about any of the products and/or services we provide to our internal staff and external partners. It also provides the mechanism for accessing MedMap and generating new accounts. There is also a FAQ library and events calendar for those things pertaining to or effecting the GIS/MedMap staff. For those users with HHS we also have a section for getting GIS product support such as map or data creation. For those outside of HHs you can use the Submit Question tool to ask for assistance and communicate with the GIS staff.

The links found on the left side of the portal are their to help all of YOU. If you find or know of a link that you feel might be of use to other GIS/MedMap users please send it to us and we'll try to add it to the appropriate section of the portal. You can use the Submit a question tool to do this if you choose. These links are checked periodically for connectivity as well as sorted by location and topic.

When you are interested in the newest developments of the GIS or MedMap don't forget to browse the News section of the portal (upper right). In this section you'll be able to find notices on anything ranging from service periods when MedMap will be down to new data and additional features. We will also post the GIS/MedMap Trajectory to this section of the portal. The buttons on the right side below the News section are used for several purposes. The *GIS Support Request*

Request button can only be used by HHS staff to request products and services from the GIS staff. We do not provide mapping services for our MedMap users unless there are special circumstances. Once this button is pressed their will be a form to fill out that will allow the user to submit the needs for the product to include a due date. The GIS staff will get back to you with any questions and draft products. The *Submit Question* function allows anyone to send a question (or comment) to the GIS staff. If the question seems applicable to many users we may add this question to the FAQ library for other to benefit. The *Documents* folder is where we will place finished final products that have been allowed by the requestor to be shared



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you have answered yes to any of these or have an idea that you'd like to share please let us know (MedMap@hhs.gov) so that we can get you signed up and arrange a presentation slot that works for you. Last year was a huge success with over 50 people attending and many presentations and posters to share what we do with others. We also have space for posters showing products that used GIS or involved GIS in some way. There were some great posters last year and we'd love to see HHS staff take a retrospective look at this past year and show off some of the great work we've accomplished. It makes it a great way to show your colleagues what you can and have done with the power of GIS. We'd also like to showcase some of the work we've worked on outside the realm of Preparedness and Response.

We are working on some new things to show everyone who attends about what is new in the GIS/MedMap world and how it can be of assistance to include the way the new portal and GIS resources can be leveraged to help in a more efficient manner. We will also demonstrate some of the new technology that we are working on to show you what is coming in the near future for our GIS users.

Last year we had attendance from the ASPR as well as many other senior HHS staff and we are looking forward to having similar attendance again. If you are interested in attending and are not a HHS or government employee please let me know and we can see how you to can participate in our celebration.

GISday

Startling Facts You Should Know About Disaster Preparedness

Robert Shankman, GISP

US Department of Health & Human Services

1. More than half of Americans have not prepared copies of crucial documents
2. 48% of Americans lack emergency supplies for use in the event of a disaster
3. More than half of parents do not have a designated meeting place in case of a disaster with their children
4. 42% of cell phone owners do not know all their immediate family members phone numbers
5. 40% of survey respondents did not have household plans
6. 80% had not conducted home evacuation drills

(Using the GIS Portal : Continued from page 3)

with other users within HHS. This location is only available to users within HHS.

The FAQs Library will have many documents that we hope will answer the questions that could come up with GIS products and MedMap usage. In some cases we may reference some of these FAQs when we answer your question so that you get a more detailed answer that we can put together. This will also allow us to create some documents with additional images and text to help you use MedMap or the GIS products with greater ease and more functionality.

The Calendar section is a great reference for all things GIS and MedMap from conferences to service dates from MedMap to any planned gap in GIS service that may occur at any time. You can either view this in list format as it is displayed or you can click on the *Events Calendar* link and be taken to a calendar view where you can scroll to a date in question to see what is planned. We will make sure that all planned outage dates for MedMap are posted both here and in the News section to get this out to all of the users as best as we can. If you know of an GIS or mapping event that might be of interest to you or the GIS/MedMap community please use the *Submit Question* link to send it to us so we may update this calendar.

The final section is the Access to MedMap in the bottom middle of the portal. This section allows new users to request an account by clicking on the *Request Access* button. Then they will need to fill out the form and an account will be created as long as this request has been properly vetted. Accounts from .Gov .Mil are generally created as long as they have a need to access the application. Other accounts will go through a vetting process that may include contacting you to determine who might be your government sponsor will be. If you have a MedMap account you should use the *Open MedMap* link to access the application. From here the log-in prompt will appear in a new browser window and you can use your account username and password to gain access to MedMap.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See the new Calendar section of the GIS/MedMap Portal:

<http://gis.medmap.hhs.gov/medmap/default.aspx>

